

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 DLOS-06 SAL-01 OES-06 L-03  
NEAE-00 /072 W

-----161705Z 062947 /47

P 161625Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBSSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6083

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES ITALY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 1788

USDOCOSOUTH PASS CINCSOUTH FOR POLAD; CINUSNAVEUR AND USCINCEUR  
FOR POLAD; DEPT PASS DOD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI TS

SUBJECT: CNO ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY VISITS TUNISIA

1. SUMMARY: CNO HOLLOWAY AND DEPUTY CNO MOORER VISITED  
TUNISIA MARCH 14 - 16 AT INVITATION OF TUNISIAN CNO JEDIDI.  
ADMIRALS ACCOMPANIED BY ME CALLED ON PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA, PRIME  
MINISTER NOIURA AND DEFENSE MINISTER FARHAT. THEY WERE GUESTS OF  
HONOR AT LUNCHEONS BY DEFENSE SECRETARY OF STATE BENNOUR, AND  
ADMIRAL JEDIDI. MINISTER GAVE IMPRESSIVE DINNER WITH FOLKLORIC  
MUSIC AND DANCES AND I OFFERED A RECEPTION FOR TUNISIAN MILITARY  
AND NATO AND FRIENDLY ARAB AMBASSADORS. BOTH ADMIRALS RECEIVED  
ORDER OF THE REPUBLIC FROM BOURGUIBA. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN COURSE OF VERY CROWDED AND IMMENSELY SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO  
TUNIS AND BIZERTE CNO ADMIRAL JAMES HOLLOWAY AND DEPUTY CNO JOSEPH  
MOORER RECEIVED HEAVY MEDIA EXPOSURE AND PROVIDED OCCASION FOR  
DEMONSTRATION OF FIRM TUNISIAN-AMERICAN AMITY. WHILE DETAILS OF  
VISIT AND REPORTAGE ON MILITARY DISCUSSIONS WILL BE COVERED IN  
SEPARATE MESSAGE BY DATT, FOLLOWING ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST

OCCURRED:

3. DECORATIONS: AT END OF UNSOLICITED CALL ON PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA BOTH ADMIRALS RECEIVED ORDER OF THE REPUBLIC AND PERSONALLY AUTOGRAPHED FRAMED PHOTOS OF PRESIDENT. CNO PRESENTED IN RETURN LARGE BRONZE MEDALLION COMMEMORATING U.S. NAVY'S BICENTENNIAL.

4. PRESIDENT'S HEALTH: ASKED BY ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY ABOUT HIS HEALTH BOURGUIBA STATED HIS RECENT ILLNESS WAS DUE TO "DEPRESSION NERVEUSE", BROUGHT ON BY OVERWORK. DOCTORS TELL HIM HE IS IN "STATE OF CONVALESCENCE" NOW, STILL TAKING MEDICAMENTS, AND MUST RESTRICT HIS ACTIVITIES; HOWEVER, SINCE HIS ADVISERS HAVE CONVINCED HIM THAT PEOPLE WANT CONSTANT REASSURANCE HE IS ALIVE AND WELL, HE SAID IMPISHLY, HE RECEIVES VISITORS AND ALLOWS HIMSELF TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED FREQUENTLY FOR TV, NEWSREELS AND PAPERS. HE SAID HE HAS "A GOOD AND SERIOUS MAN" AS PRIME MINISTER IN WHOM HE HAS "FULL CONFIDENCE". NOUIRA HAS TO CARRY MOST OF BURDENS OF STATE BECAUSE HE HIMSELF IS NO LONGER UP TO IT.

5. TWO BEST FRIENDS: ON SHELF FULL OF MEMENTOES HE SHOWED AUTOGRAPHED PHOTOS OF GISCARD D'ESTAING AND EISENHOWER, REPRESENTING "TUNISIA'S TWO BEST FRIENDS". AMERICA HAD BEEN HIS BEST FRIEND AND SUPPORTER DURING HIS LONG YEARS OF STRUGGLE AND THAT FRIENDSHIP HAD SUSTAINED HIS HOPE. TRUE TO HIS WORD, HE HAD TOLD FRENCH EVEN WHEN UNDER ARREST HE WOULD WANT TO BE FRIEND OF FRANCE ONCE FRANCE HAD YIELDED TUNISIA'S INDEPENDENCE. THIS HAS NOW COME ABOUT. PRESIDENT NEXT POINTED TO SPECIALLY TREASURED NIXON GIFT: MOON ROCK AND TUNISIAN FLAG WHICH HAD BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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TAKEN TO MOON.

6. FLEET VISITS: WHEN CNO EXPRESSED U.S. AND USN GRATITUDE FOR TUNISIAN HOSPITALITY TO SIXTH FLEET UNITS, PRESIDENT SAID "IT IS THE LEAST WE CAN DO FOR YOU" IN RETURN FOR U.S. GENEROSITY, ADDING "WE ALWAYS FEEL SAFER WHEN YOUR SHIPS ARE HERE". WITH A KNOWING GRIN HE SAID THAT SUCH VISITS ARE ALSO KNOWN TO DISCOMFIT "A CERTAIN NEIGHBOR WHO IS NOT A VERY COMFORTABLE ONE TO HAVE" (UN CERTAIN VOISIN QUI N'EST PAS TRES COMMODE). THE LIBYANS HAVE MADE THEIR FEELING KNOWN ON THIS TO THE TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR.

7. LAW OF SEA: WHEN WE CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER HEDI NOUIRA ADMIRAL EXPRESSED U.S. APPRECIATE FOR HELPFUL ATTITUDES TAKEN BY TUNISIAN DELEGATION TO LAW OF THE SEA MEETINGS. SAID USG AND GOT SAW EYE-TO-EYE ON MOST ASPECTS. NOUIRA WAS PLEASED WITH THIS OBSERVATION AND LAUNCHED ON DISCOURSE STRESSING IMPORTANCE GOT ATTACHES TO SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF NEXT CONFERENCE. HE HAD DIRECTED COMPOSITION

OF A "BALANCED" TUNISIAN DELEGATION: LAWYERS, NAVAL OFFICERS, CIVIL SERVANTS AND ECOLOGISTS. HE HAD INSTRUCTED THEM NOT TO ADOPT "SMALL COUNTRY" OR "LEGALISTIC" ATTITUDE BUT USE INFLUENCE CONSTANTLY TO SECURE ADOPTION OF DECISIONS ON WHICH MOST GENERAL AGREEMENT COULD BE OBTAINED. IT WAS IMPORTANT, HE STATED, THAT TWO-THIRDS VOTE BE GAINED ON "LEGISLATIVE" DOCUMENT "THAT WILL REALLY HAVE FORCE OF LAW, WITH TEETH IN IT". GENERAL INTERNATIONAL LAW IS NO LONGER SUFFICIENT AND IS TOO SUBJECT TO INDIVIDUAL STATES'S SELFISH INTERPRETATION. TUNISIA'S CONFLICT WITH LIBYA WOULD NOT OCCUR IF ALL STATES WERE CLEARLY BOUND BY SOLID AND BINDING "INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION".

8. COMMENT: VISIT WAS WELL ORGANIZED BY TUNISIAN HOSTS WHO PULLED OUT ALL STOPS. MEDIA COVERAGE WAS EXTENSIVE DURING BOTH DAYS OF VISIT. INVITATION TO CALL ON PRESIDENT -PROVIDED US WITH EVIDENCE OF SURPRISINGLY BOUNCY, JOVIAL, CONFIDENTIAL

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STILL ENERGETIC BOURGUIBA WHO SEEMS TO HAVE ACCEPTED HIS NEW FIGUREHEAD STATUS WITH GOOD GRACE TINGED WITH SOME REGRET.  
MULCAHY

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## Message Attributes

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